

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 PRS-01 DPW-01 L-02 IO-03

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R 191145 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3418

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10982

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SITREP JUNE 19

FOL SENT ACTION SIAGON FM NHA TRANG AND RPTD FOR YOUR INFO QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0622

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP, JUNE 19

1. SECURITY SITUATION: MOST OF REGION 2 REMAINED RELATIVELY CALM FOR PAST 24- HOUR PERIOD WITH LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY HOLDING AT ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF LAST WEEK' S AVERAGE. TOTAL OF 11 INCIDENTS INCLUDED: SIX NVA/ VC ATTACKS BY FIRE, TWO VC MININGS, TWO NVA/ VC GROUND ATTACKS, AND ONE FIREFIGHT BETWEEN RVNAF UNIT ON PATROL AND ENEMY. FOUR INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN BINH THUAN, THREE IN KONTUM, TWO IN BINH DINH, AND ONE EACH
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IN PHU YEN AND QUANG DUC. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE QUITE HIGH WHILE REPORTED RVNAF CASUALTIES REMAINED LOW: NVA/ VC: 43 KIA; RVNAF: ONE KIA AND FIVE WIA.

2. MOST SIGNIFICANT SINGLE INCIDENT OCCURRED IN PHU CU PASS AREA OF HOAI NHON DISTRICT, BINH DINH EARLY MORNING JUNE 19. WHILE MR 2 OPERATIONS CENTER ACCOUNT NOT YET AVAILABLE, POLOFF REPORTS THAT AN ARVN COMPANY WAS ATTACKED BY FIRE BY AN UNIDENTIFIED VC FORCE ON THE EASTERN HEIGHTS OF THE PASS. FIRE ATTACK WAS FOLLOWED BY ARVN REACTION. RESULTS: 37 VC KIA, 19 WEAPONS CAPTURED; ONE ARVN KIA AND ONE WIA. THOUGH CASUALTY INBALANCE SUGGESTS ARVN MIGHT HAVE INITIATED THE INCIDENT, GVN REPORTING SINCE JANUARY 28 TYPICALLY DESCRIBES ALL INCIDENTS AS ENEMY INITIATED WHETHER THEY ARE OR NOT.

3. KONTUM POLOFF REPORTS RELATIVE QUIET AT THE MOMENT, ALTHOUGH MORE GVN REINFORCEMENTS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT INTO PROVINCE AND POSITIONED FOR WHAT IS HOPED TO BE LAST BIG PUSH TO RETAKE TRUNG NGHIA VILLAGE. THE 2 ND BATTALION OF THE 45 TH ARVN REGT CONTINUED TO ADVANCE NORTHWEST TOWARDS THE VILLAGE AND, ALTHOUGH UNIT WAS ATTACKED BY ENEMY TWICE LAST NIGHT (CASUALTIES NOT YET KNOWN), LEAD ELEMENTS OF BATTALION HAVE NOW PROGRESSED TO WITHIN THREE OR FOUR KM OF TRUNG NGHIA. COMPANIES OF 1 ST BATTALION 44 TH ARVN REGT REPORTEDLY MADE LITTLE FORWARD PROGRESS AGAINST STIFF ENEMY RESISTANCE IN AREA ABOUT FOUR KM EAST OF VILLAGE. MEANWHILE, ABOUT 7 KILOMETERS TO THE SOUTH OF TRUNG NGHIA THE RF HAVE SCORED WHAT MAY BE THEIR FIRST SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS IN TEN DAYS OF FIGHTING IN THE KONTUM AREA: SUPPORTED BY HEAVY TACAIR AND ARTILLERY, THEY HAVE REPORTEDLY RETAKEN HALF OF PLEI KLOR HAMLET WHICH FELL TO THE ENEMY SHORTLY AFTER THE FALL OF TRUNG NGHIA.

4. REACTION TO PARIS COMMUNIQUE: BINH DINH DEPUTY SECTOR COMMANDER, LT. COL. NGUYEN MANH TUONG, DOUBTS THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL RESPECT THE CEASE- FIRE FOR LONG AND BELIEVES THEY AGREED TO THE NEW CEASE- FIRE DOCUMENT MERELY TO GAIN TIME TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE ATTACKS. IN CONVERSATION WITH POLOFF, TUONG ALSO IMPLIED THAT ANOTHER REASON FOR THE COMMUNISTS' AGREEING TO THE PROTOCOL WAS TO PREVENT FURTHER GVN ENCROACHMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID THAT HIS ORDERS FROM SAIGON WERE TO RESPECT THE CEASE- FIRE AND THAT GVN PLANS FOR RETAKING THE NORTHEASTERN COAST OF PHU MY DISTRICT HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED.

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5. TUONG SAID IF THE COMMUNISTS AGAIN VIOLATE THE CEASE- FIRE, AND HE EXPECTS THEY WILL WHEN THEY HAVE FINISHED THEIR CURRENT CYCLE OF REORGANIZATION, RETRAINING, AND RESUPPLY, THAT THE GVN WILL MOVE IMMEDIATELY TO SEIZE NORTHEASTERN PHU MY. FOR THE PRESENT, HOWEVER, FRIENDLY FORCES WILL " CONSOLIDATE" THE TERRI-

TORY THEY HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN, SUCH AS THE LAND ADJACENT TO
HIGHWAY 6 B WHICH RUNS INTO PHU YEN PROVINCE.

6. LIMITATION ON DISCUSSIONS WITH COMMUNISTS: TUONG ALSO SAID
THAT ORDERS FROM SAIGON STATE THAT THE ONLY PEOPLE IN BINH
DINH ALLOWED TO HAVE CONTACTS WITH THE ENEMY ARE THE
PROVINCE CHIEF AND THE DIVISION COMMANDER, THE PARIS COMMUNIQUE
AND ARTICLE 4 OF THE PROTOCOL ON THE CEASE- FIRE NOTWITHSTANDING.
HE SAID THIS ORDER WAS TO THWART THE VC IF THEY AGAIN TRY THEIR
JANUARY TACTIC OF DISPATCHING HIGHER LEVEL CADRE TO THE FRONT
LINE TO FRATERNIZE AND MISLEAD THE LESS IDEOLOGICALLY PREPARED
GVN TROOPS. TEARE QUNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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